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HISTORY,

ARTICLES OF FAITH,

AND

COVENANT

OF THE

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

IN

WINCHESTER,

WITH A

CATALOGUE OF ITS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

BOSTON:
WILLIAM A. HALL, PRINTER,
22 SCHOOL STREET.
1855.

Congregational Church, Winchester.

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HISTORICAL STATEMENT.

THE CHURCH.

The Congregational Church in Winchester was organized November 19th, 1840. It consisted originally of one hundred and two members, the greater part of whom were from the First Church in Woburn.

The Council called to advise and assist in the organization of the church was composed of the following members:— From the church in South Reading, Rev. Reuben Emerson, Pastor; Deacon A. Bryant, Delegate. From the church in Tewksbury, Rev. J. Coggin, Pastor. From the Winthrop Church, Charlestown, Rev. D. Crosby, Pastor; Deacon U. Manning, Delegate. From the First Church in Woburn, Rev. J. Bennett, Pastor; Deacon C. Thompson, Delegate. From the Second Church in Medford, Rev. A. R. Baker, Pastor; Brother T. Magoun, Delegate.

Previous to the calling of the Council, meetings had been held from time to time by the brethren and sisters who proposed to unite in forming the new church. Letters of dismission and recommendation had been obtained by them, and Articles of Faith and a Form of Covenant prepared and adopted.

These proceedings were voted regular and satisfactory by the Council, who proceeded to the organization and recognition of the church. The services of the occasion were as follows:—Invocation, Rev. Mr. Dennis; Prayer of Consecration, Rev. J. Coggin; Charge, Rev. R. Emerson; Concluding Prayer, Rev. J. Bennett. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was then administered by the Moderator, Rev. R. Emerson, assisted by Rev. E. Cleaveland and Rev. J. Bennett. The Benediction was pronounced by Rev. James Boutwell.

THE PARISH.

The Congregational Parish in Winchester was organized June 1st, 1840. By-Laws were subsequently adopted, the fifth article of which is as follows:

Article Fifth. In the choice of a minister, the Church connected with this society shall in all cases have the right of nomination; and a call shall be given only by a concurrent vote of the church and society.

HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

The Corner-Stone of the first house of worship was laid, with appropriate ceremonies, July 27th, 1840. It was completed and dedicated to the worship of Almighty God, December 30th, 1840. The sermon on this occasion was preached by Rev. D. Crosby, of Charlestown.

During the summer of 1849, the house was enlarged and thoroughly repaired. A new and valuable organ was placed in the church by subscription early in the winter of 1852–3.

On the morning of March 20th, 1853, the house, organ, &c., were destroyed by fire, through some defect in the flue.

The Corner-Stone of the present house was laid September 5th, 1853. It was dedicated October 11th, 1854. Sermon by the Pastor.

PASTORS.

Rev. George P. Smith, the first Pastor of the church, was ordained June 17th, 1841. The exercises on the occasion were as follows:—Invocation and Reading of the Scriptures by Rev. T. P. Field, Danvers; Prayer by Rev. R. Emerson, South Reading; Sermon by Rev. N. Adams, D. D., Boston; Ordaining Prayer by Rev. J. Mann, Salem; Charge to the Pastor by Rev. J. H. Towne, Boston; Fellowship of the Churches by Rev. A. R. Baker, Medford; Address to the People by Rev. J. Bennett, Woburn; Concluding Prayer by Rev. W. I. Budington, Charlestown; Benediction by the Pastor. Rev. Mr. Smith was dismissed March 11th, 1845.

Rev. William T. Eustis, Jr., was ordained Pastor of the church, April 8th, 1846. The sermon on this occasion was by Rev. R. S. Storrs, D. D., Braintree. Rev. Mr. Eustis was dismissed, January 27th, 1848.

Rev. John M. Steele was ordained Pastor, August 10th, 1848. The sermon was by Rev. N. Lord, D. D., Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H. Rev. Mr. Steele was dismissed, February 11th, 1852.

Rev. R. T. Robinson, the present Pastor, was ordained, October 27th, 1852. Sermon by Rev. E. N. Kirk, Boston.

DEACONS.

Nathan B. Johnson, Benjamin F. Thompson, and Marshall Wyman were chosen Deacons, December 31st, 1840. They continued in office until February 18th, 1852, when they resigned.

April 8th, 1852, it was voted to choose two new deacons, and Charles W. Wilder and Zebadiah Abbot were chosen. Deacon Wilder, being about to leave town, tendered his resignation, February 16th, 1854.

March 1st, 1854, three new deacons were chosen:— Joseph Huse, Luther Richardson, and Oliver R. Clark, who with Zebadiah Abbot constitute the present board.

BY-LAWS.

1. The permanent officers of the church are the Pastor, or Pastors, and Deacons.

2. To the Pastor pertains the office of Moderator at all meetings of the church, except when his own case shall be under consideration. In the absence of the Pastor, the Deacons shall preside in rotation. They shall also assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper, shall distribute the alms of the church, and aid the Pastor generally in the oversight of the flock.

3. There shall be an annual meeting of the church for business on the evening of the first Wednesday in January, at which time a Clerk, Treasurer, and Examining Committee, consisting of six, (including the Pastor and Deacons,) shall be chosen by ballot.

4. The Clerk shall keep the records of the church, embracing all items of business, the admission of members by letter or profession, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and shall read the same at the annual meeting.

5. The Treasurer shall have charge of all moneys and property belonging to the church, excepting the communion service (which shall be under the care of the Deacons,) and shall report at the annual meeting.

6. The Examining Committee shall examine all candidates for admission to the church, and present the names of such as they approve. Candidates for admission by letter shall be examined by one or more of the committee privately. Notice of meetings for the examination of candidates to be given from the pulpit.

7. Candidates for admission to the church, approved by the Examining Committee, shall be propounded to the church at least four weeks previous to their admission; and notice thereof shall be publicly given on the second Sabbath preceding the communion.

8. Members of this church who remove from town, are expected to take letters from us to some sister church in or near the place where they may reside, within one year from the time of their removal.

9. Members of other churches resident among us are expected to transfer their relation to this church, within one year from the time of their coming into the place, unless special reasons are given to the Examining Committee for delay.

10. Any member having cause of complaint against another, shall immediately seek to have it removed, according to the directions given in the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth verses of the eighteenth chapter of Matthew.

11. This church considers avowed disbelief of the Articles of Faith, breach of covenant vows, neglect of the ordinances of religion, an unwillingness to contribute to the support of the gospel, as well as all immoralities of conduct,

attendance upon plays, card or dancing parties, or the having such entertainments at one's house, as disciplinable offences.

12. The members of this church are required to abstain from the use of, and traffic in, ardent spirits, except so far as the same may be used for medical or mechanical purposes.

13. The censures of the church are, private reproof, public admonition, and excommunication; and in case of excommunication, notice shall be given thereof from the pulpit.

14. The Lord's Supper shall be administered to this church once in two months, commencing with January; and a collection shall be taken for the poor of the church, and to defray the expense of the table, at the close of the service. A Preparatory Lecture shall be preached on the Wednesday evening preceding each celebration of this ordinance.

15. There shall be a weekly meeting of the church for prayer and conference on Wednesday evening, which meeting it shall be the duty of all members of the church statedly to attend.

16. Business meetings of the church may be called by the Pastor, or by the Clerk on the written request of five brethren, specifying the business to be transacted. Notice of such meeting to be given from the pulpit.

17. The time for the commencement of public religious services on the Sabbath shall be as follows:—In the morning, service to commence at half-past ten; in the afternoon, from the first Sabbath in November to the last Sabbath in

March, at two; and from the first Sabbath in April to the last in October, at three.

18. These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the church, provided notice of such alteration or amendment be given from the pulpit the Sabbath previous.

FORM OF ADMISSION.

ADDRESS.

Beloved Friends:—You have now presented yourselves before God and his people, and before the world, to make a solemn profession of your religious faith, and to take upon you the bonds of the everlasting Covenant. We trust you have well considered the nature of this transaction, (the most solemn and momentous in which a mortal can ever engage,) and that you are prepared by divine grace to give yourselves away, a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ. Having examined and assented to the Articles of Faith adopted by this church, you will now profess the same before these witnesses.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

1. You believe, that there is but one God, the Creator, Preserver, and Moral Governor of the Universe; a Being of infinite power, knowledge, wisdom, justice, goodness, and truth; the self-existent, independent, and immutable Jehovah.

2. You believe, that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God; that they are profitable for correction, for reproof, and for instruction in righteousness; and that they are our only rule of doctrinal belief and religious practice.

3. You believe, that in the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

4. You believe, that God has made all things for himself; that he governs all things according to the counsel of his own will; and that the laws of his government are holy, just, and good.

5. You believe, that God at first created man in his own image, in a state of rectitude and holiness, and that he fell from that state by transgressing the divine command in eating the forbidden fruit.

6. You believe, that in consequence of the first apostacy, the heart of man in his natural state is destitute of holiness, and in a state of positive disaffection with the law, character, and government of God, and that all men, previous to regeneration, are dead in trespasses and sins.

7. You believe, that Christ, the Son of God, has, by his obedience, sufferings, and death, made an atonement for sin; that he is the only Redeemer of sinners; and that those who are saved will be altogether indebted to the grace and mercy of God for their salvation.

8. You believe, that although the invitation of the gospel is such, that whosoever will, may come and take of the water of life freely; yet the depravity of the human heart is such, that no man will come to Christ except the Father, by the special and efficacious influences of his Spirit, draw him.

9. You believe, that mankind do, of their own accord, refuse to comply with these conditions, to the aggravation of their guilt and condemnation; but that God, notwithstanding he perceived how mankind would treat the gospel of his Son, did always purpose to save from deserved ruin great multitudes of the human race, through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

10. You believe, that those who cordially embrace Christ will be kept by the mighty power of God, through faith unto salvation.

11. You believe, that there will be a general resurrection of the bodies both of the just and unjust; that all mankind must one day stand before the judgment-seat of Christ, to receive the just and final sentence of retribution, according to the deeds done in the body; that, at the day of judgment, the state of all will be unalterably fixed; and that the punishment of the wicked and the happiness of the righteous will be endless.

12. You believe, that the Sacraments of the New Testament, to the end of time, are Baptism and the Lord's Supper; that believers in regular church standing only, can

properly partake of the Lord's Supper; and that only they, and their households, can consistently be admitted to the ordinance of Baptism.

All these things you profess and cordially believe.

[Here those who have not been baptized, receive the ordinance of Baptism.]

You will now enter into solemn covenant with God and with this church.

COVENANT.

In the presence of God, and of this assembly, you do now solemnly avouch the Lord Jehovah,—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,—to be your God, the object of your supreme affection, and the source of all your strength and comfort.

You do cordially devote to God both yourselves and yours, according to the covenant of grace in the Lord Jesus Christ, promising to make the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments the rule of your faith and practice. You acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ in his mediatorial offices —as Prophet, Priest, and King—to be your only Saviour, and the Holy Spirit to be your Sanctifier, Comforter, and Guide. You promise, that by the help of God, you will walk before him in righteousness and holiness—giving diligent attendance to his word and ordinances, and seeking for the honor and interest of his kingdom.

You do also put yourselves under the watch and care of this church, and the government of Christ herein, engaging to strive earnestly for its peace, edification, and purity, conducting toward all its members with faithfulness, circumspection, meekness, and sobriety.

Do you thus profess and covenant with this church?

[The Members of the Church are requested to rise.]

In the name of this church, and on their behalf, I now welcome you to our sacred fellowship and communion, engaging, through Christ's assistance, that we will watch over you, teaching, admonishing, and reproving, or encouraging and comforting, as the rules of the Gospel enjoin on this solemn relation.

And now, beloved in the Lord, let it be impressed on your minds, that the covenant which you make this day, is with God and with his people. These vows will abide with you in time and in eternity. Your covenant is an everlasting covenant, never to be forgotten. Remember, that hereafter the eyes of the world will be upon you; as you demean yourselves, so religion will be honored or dishonored. If you walk worthily, you will be a comfort to the church; but if otherwise, it will be an occasion of grief and reproach. But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

May the Lord guide and preserve you till death, and at last receive both you and us to that blessed world where our love and joy will be forever perfected.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

REUBEN T. ROBINSON, . . PASTOR.

ZEBADIAH ABBOT,
JOSEPH HUSE,
LUTHER RICHARDSON,
OLIVER R. CLARK, } . . . . DEACONS.

STEPHEN A. HOLT, ... CLERK.

OLIVER R. CLARK, ... TREASURER.

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.

N. B. The names of the original members of the church are printed in SMALL CAPITALS ; the names of those received by letter in *italics ;* and of those received by profession in common Roman letters.

Zebadiah Abbot,
Caroline W. Abbot,
John Ayer,
Tryphena R. Ayer,
Mary L. Bailey,
PHŒBE BELL,
Joseph B. Blanchard,
Nathan Blanchard,
Sarah Blanchard,
*William J. Blanchard,**
Lydia L. Blood,
Mary B. Bowker,
*Elizabeth G. Bridge,**
Mary A. Bridge,
Smith E. Brown,
Cynthia L. Brown,
John Buxton,
LINDA BUXTON,
Alonzo Chapin,
Mary Ann T. Chapin,
Eliza Chapman,
Georgianna D. Clapp,
OLIVER R. CLARK,
JULIA A. CLARK,
Edward W. Clark,
Harriet M. Clark,
Jonathan Clark,
Persis W. Clark,
Thomas Collins,
Mary A. Collins,
Lucretia C. Cotes,*
Eliza J. Cram,
MARY CUTTER,*
JOHN CUTTER,*
MARTHA S. CUTTER,
STEPHEN CUTTER,
ADALINE W. CUTTER,
Henry Cutter,
Nancy Cutter,
Andrew Cutter,

* Deceased.

ELIZABETH CUTTER,
SULLIVAN CUTTER,
ABIGAIL B. CUTTER,
Stephen H. Cutter,
Almira Cutter,
Hannah E. Cutter,
John A. Cutter,
William A. Dodge,
Elizabeth W. Dodge,
Julia A. Douglass,
HEPSIBAH S. EATON,
Elizabeth M. Edgecomb,
SYLVANUS ELLIOTT,
LORING EMERSON,
TRYPHENA P. EMERSON,
Putnam Emerson,
Betsey Emerson,
Rebecca Emerson,
Elizabeth L. Fairfield,
Mary F. Fawcett,
Edwin A. Fessenden,
JOHN FISKE,
LYDIA P. FISKE,
Dorcas Fletcher,
JEFFERSON FORD,
LYDIA W. FORD,
MATTHEW GRISWOLD,
HANNAH G. GRISWOLD,
ADALINE A. HALL,
ALVAH HATCH,*
MARY C. HATCH,*
MARIA J. HATCH,*
ESTHER W. HATCH,
R. E. Holbrook,
Stephen A. Holt,
Nancy W. Holt,
Samuel S. Holton,
Tryphena S. Holton,
Maria A. Holton,
William C. Homer,
Abel Houghton,
NANCY W. HOUGHTON,
Nancy C. Howe,
Joseph Huse,
Mary R. Huse,
LUCETTA R. HUTCHINSON,
Samuel Hutchinson,*
Thomas Hutchinson,
BETSEY HUTCHINSON,
NATHAN JAQUITH,
ESTHER JAQUITH,*
NATHAN B. JOHNSON,
ALMIRA JOHNSON,
Mary Johnson,
Harriette N. Johnson,
FRANCIS JOHNSON,*
MEHITABLE JOHNSON,
MEHITABLE JOHNSON, 2nd,
Josephus Johnson,
Maria Johnson,
Abigail Johnson,
FRANCIS JOHNSON,
SUSAN E. JOHNSON,
Maria L. Johnson,
Thomas A. Joyce,
ELI KENDALL,*

* Deceased.

Julia A. Kendall,*
Isaac H. Kendall,
Edward F. Kendall,
Elizabeth A. Kendall,
Samuel Kendall,
Patty Kendall,
Mary J. Kimball,
Miranda Knights,*
*James T. Langley,**
*Mary R. Langley,**
Mary A. Lawrence,
Lucy W. Lindley,
Frances N. Lord,
John T. Manny,
Ellen E. Manny,
Levi Maxfield,
Mary M. Maxfield,
Rebecca McDonald,
Harriette L. McElroy,
*Asa Mead,**
Abigail Mead,
Stephen Nichols,
Jane Nichols,
Harriette E. Nichols,*
Harrison Parker,
Hannah M. Parker,
Hannah Parker,
Margaret F. Parker,
Clarimond W. Pierce,
Delia Pierce,*
Samuel S. Porter,
Mary W. Porter,
Betsey J. Rice,

Jesse Richardson,*
*Laura Richardson,**
Caleb Richardson,
Polly Richardson,*
Thomas Richardson,*
Mary L. Richardson,
Sumner Richardson,
Eliza H. Richardson,
Luther Richardson,
*Elizabeth A. Richardson,**
Martha J. Richardson,
Samuel S. Richardson,
Lydia A. Richardson,*
John S. Richardson,
Lydia W. Richardson,
Susanna H. Richardson,
Elizabeth Richardson,
Melvina Richardson,
Reuben T. Robinson,
Clara A. Robinson,
John Robinson,
Nancy Rogers,
Elizabeth H. Russell,
Mary Russell,
Charles Russell,
Achsah J. Sanborn,
George Sanderson,
Abby Sanderson,
*Isaac Shattuck,**
Hannah Shattuck,
Andrew N. Shepard,
Harriette Shepard,
Benjamin A. Shepard,*

* Deceased.

Mary Ann Shepard,
Elizabeth Smith,
Octavia A. Smith,*
Mary R. Stevens,
*Phineas Stone,**
Dorothy Stone,
Lucy T. Stone,
Nancy Stone,
Abigail Stratton,
Betsey T. Swan,
Zachariah Symmes,*
Nancy R. Symmes,
Joseph B. Symmes,*
Lydia Symmes,*
Betsey C. Symmes,
Adaline M. Symmes,
Hannah Symmes,
Horatio Symmes,
Charlotte Symmes,
Mary Symmes,*
Henry W. Symmes,
Sophia S. Symmes,
Mary R. Symonds,
Deborah J. Teel,
Lucy A. Teel,
Luthera Teel,
Mary P. Tenny,
Benjamin F. Thompson,
Hannah Thompson,
Abijah Thompson,
Maria S. Thompson,
John G. Usher,
Rufus Wade,
Mary Walker,
Salem T. Ward,
Mary A. Ward,
Isabella Ward,
Jemima Ward,
William A. Warren,
Betsey Warren,
Ellen M. Weld,
Lucy Wetherbee,
Louisa Whittemore,
Susan F. Whittemore,
John Whittemore,
Emeline Whittemore,
Samuel B. White,
Sarah R. White,
Mary A. Whitney,
Martha Wilder,*
Susan E. Winchester,
Nancy Woods,
Marshall Wyman,
Susan P. Wyman,
Samuel S. Wyman,
Lucy A. Wyman,
Lucy Wyman,*
Joseph Wyman,
Jerusha Wyman,
David Youngman,
Mary A. Youngman.

* Deceased.

RECAPITULATION OF MEMBERS.

Original members,	83
Members received by letter,	92
Members received on profession,	58
Total,	233
Deceased,	35
Present number,	198

B.P.L. Binding
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